

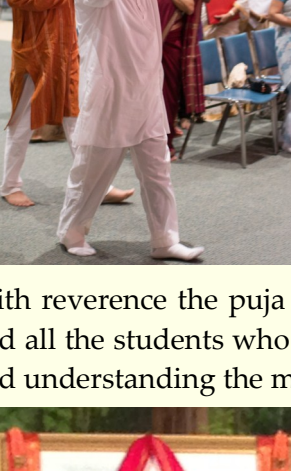
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Over Thirty Years Of Service To Humanity



Upcoming Events

CEEP 2014-2015 Session Commencement	Sep 2	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Opening Day: Rameshwaram Balvihar	Sep 7	
Academic Session 2014-15		
Session 1		
Ganapaty Puja & Aarti by Teachers		9:00 am - 9:30 am
Welcome Address by Acharyas		9:30 am - 10:30 am
Regular BV classes for children		9:30 am - 10:30 am
Session 2		
Ganapaty Puja & Aarti by Teachers		12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Welcome Address by Acharyas		12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Regular BV classes for children		12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Valmiki Ramayan Discourse Series with Swami Ishwaranandaji	Sep 8-12	6:30 am - 7:30 pm 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Bhagavad Gita Discourse Series With Swami Ishwaranandaji	Sep 14 onwards	9:00 am & 12:00 pm (every Sunday)
Kalanjali: Violin Recital by Maestro Kala Ramnath	Sep 14	5 pm onwards
Yoga Classes	Sep 18 onwards	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm (every Thursday)
Navratni Celebration with Garba & Raas	Sep 27	7:30 pm onwards

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Thus Spake The Master

Your life will be blessed if you need nothing until you have it.

- Swami Chinmayananda

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THINK!

O Lord Ganapaty,...

*Grand is Thy huge belly, to stomach all our mindless folly
 Arriving on a little mouse, teaching us to put everything into use
 Narrore and stretchy is Thy trunk, teaching us to be flexible to think
 Always adored as the first, teaching us face life with a zest
 Partial is your mighty tusk, teaching us to sacrifice for greater task
 Abode of yours at tree's base, supporting us in every phase
 Two are Thy massive ears, teaching us to listen not just hear
 Year after year you are made in clay, to show us the world is just a play!*

- Swami Ishwarananda

For e-Satsang blog, click [here](#)

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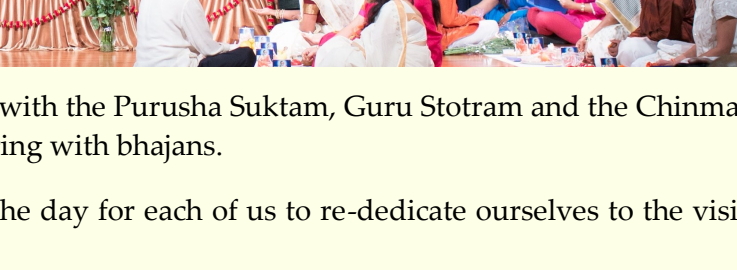
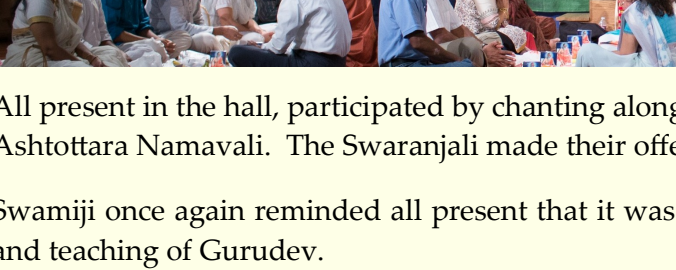
Love and Reverence on Mahasamadhi Day



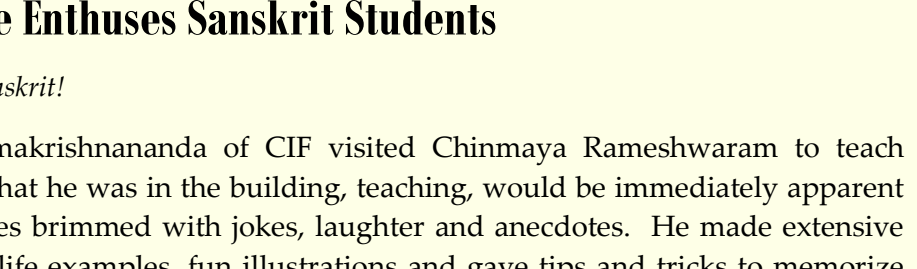
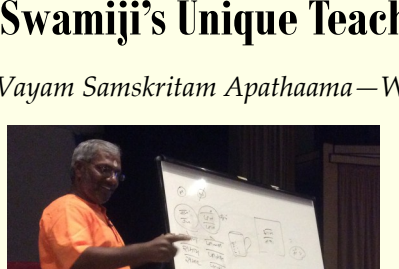
Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda was remembered with great love and respect at CMLA on Aug.3, the day he left his mortal body 21 years ago in San Diego. There was soulful chanting of the Guru Paduka Stotram, warm bhajans that invoked his glory and a loving paduka puja.

The morning began with devotees watching and reveling in a video of Gurudev. At an informal Q&A with people in North America, Gurudev was fortunately recorded for posterity as he answered with practicality and humor on a varied number of subjects which went toward providing direction to one's life.

Acharya Mahadevanji carried Gurudev's padukas from the temple altar to the puja site in the main auditorium.



With reverence the puja was led by him and Swami Ishwarananda and conducted by Shashi and Janga Reddy and all the students who have joined 'Chinmayanjali'. The two year course which will includes learning Sanskrit and understanding the major texts, is being taught by Swamiji.



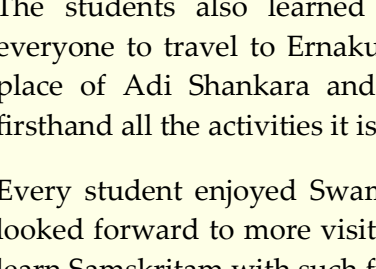
All present in the hall, participated by chanting along with the Purusha Suktam, Guru Stotram and the Chinmaya Ashtottara Namavali. The Svaranjali made their offering with bhajans.

Swamiji once again reminded all present that it was the day for each of us to re-dedicate ourselves to the vision and teaching of Gurudev.

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Swamiji's Unique Teaching Style Enthuses Sanskrit Students

Vayam Sanskritam Apathaama—We studied Sanskrit!



Swami Ramakrishnananda of CIF visited Chinmaya Rameshwaram to teach Sanskrit. That he was in the building, teaching, would be immediately apparent as his classes brimmed with jokes, laughter and anecdotes. He made extensive use of real life examples, fun illustrations and gave tips and tricks to memorize complex grammar rules that had every student nodding in enthusiasm and smiles on their faces.

There were about 40 attendees including Chinmayanjali students who took the advanced class from Aug 22-27.

Swamiji covered advanced grammar topics like verb conjugations for present, past and future tense; and conjugations for imperative and potential moods. Topics like use of pronouns and noun declensions were also touched upon.

Swamiji released a new book set "Mastering the Devanagari Script". This four-part book guides new students to mastering the Devanagari script.

The students also learned about CIF as Swamiji exhorted everyone to travel to Ernakulam and visit the auspicious birth place of Adi Shankara and the CIF headquarters and learn firsthand all the activities it is engaged in.

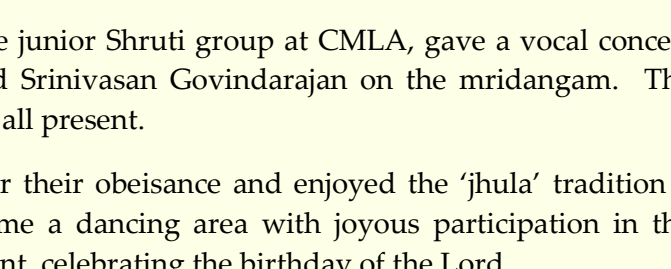
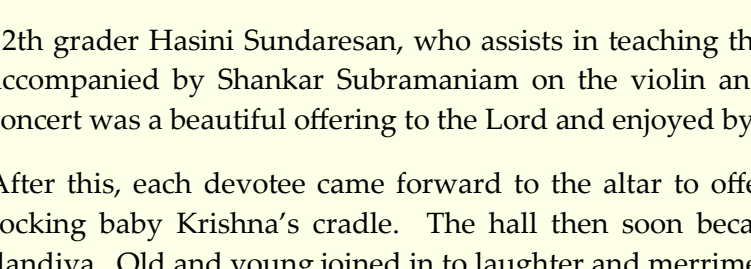
Every student enjoyed Swamiji's unique style of teaching and looked forward to more visits by him so they could continue to learn Sanskrit with such fun and joy.



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'Natkhath' Krishna's Birthday Marked by Fun and Devotion

On Aug.17, CMLA members walked into Rameshwaram's main auditorium to a stunning sight: little Krishna looking majestic and standing poised on the serpent Kaliya's hooded head. Even as the oohs and aahs of the the Lord's devotees settled down, the puja to mark Krishna Janamashtami was performed with all participating.

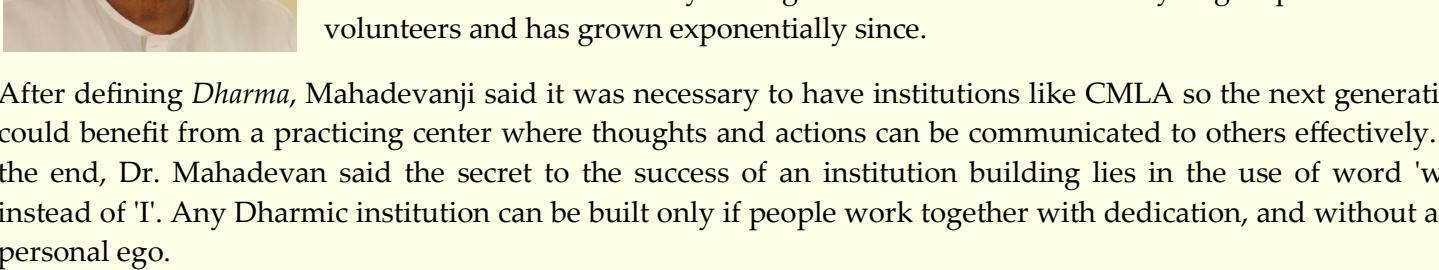


The congregation, of over 300 people, were then able to join in with a beautiful bhajan rendered by Swami Ishwarananda. There followed two wonderful messages - the first came on the relevance of the festival itself from Swamiji and then on the life of Lord Krishna from Swami Chaitanyanandaji, who was visiting from Boston.



12th grader Hasini Sundaresan, who assists in teaching the junior Shruti group at CMLA, gave a vocal concert accompanied by Shankar Subramaniam on the violin and Srinivasan Govindarajan on the mridangam. The concert was a beautiful offering to the Lord and enjoyed by all present.

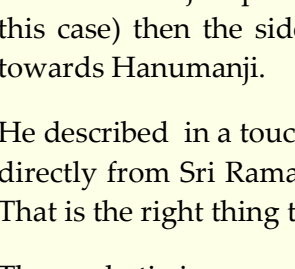
After this, each devotee came forward to the altar to offer their obeisance and enjoyed the 'jhula' tradition - rocking baby Krishna's cradle. The hall then soon became a dancing area with joyous participation in the dandiya. Old and young joined in to laughter and merriment, celebrating the birthday of the Lord.



Later, all were served a sumptuous boxed dinner, complete with laddos. As usual, everyone was appreciative of the dedicated team of volunteers who had planned the event, decorated the lord, conducted the puja, provided the music and served the food.

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Mahadevanji Speaks on Building Dharmic Institutions; the Glory of the Sunderkand



In August, Acharya Mahadevanji spoke at two venues on different matters. At the monthly lecture series held by the Bharatiya Vichar Manch on Aug. 17 at the Sanatan Dharma temple, his talk centered on the goal of building sustainable Dharmic-based institutions in Southern California.

He backed his talk with the real-life example of Chinmaya Mission which he pointed out was started more than 32 years ago in Southern California by a group of dedicated volunteers and has grown exponentially since.

After defining *Dharma*, Mahadevanji said it was necessary to have institutions like CMLA so the next generation could benefit from a practicing center where thoughts and actions can be communicated to others effectively. In the end, Dr. Mahadevan said the secret to the success of an institution building lies in the use of word 'we', instead of 'I'. Any Dharmic institution can be built only if people work together with dedication, and without any personal ego.

On Aug.9, he spoke at the Sivan temple in Pasadena at an event hosted by CMLA's San Gabriel center. The talk was entitled "Highlights from the Suderakanda of Goswami Tulsidasji -- a blend of music, and story of inspiration from Tulsi Ramayan."

In this talk he emphasized the greatness of Hanuman, his unbounded devotion to Rama, his valor and strength, and his unsurpassed humility. The lecture was interwoven with the melodious voice of Mahadevanji chanting *chaupais* and *slokas*.

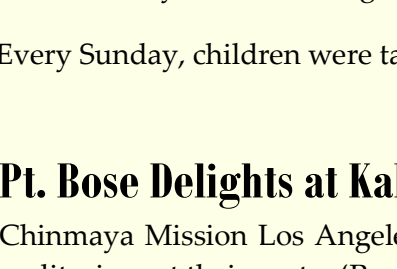
When he described the way Hanuman took off from the mountains in order to leap across the ocean, the physicist in Mahadevanji explained that it was owing to the Bernoulli effect: when a body speeds up in a medium (air in this case) then the sideways pressure drops, and owing to this drop, the trees and other objects get attracted towards Hanumanji.

He described in a touching way how Hanuman faces the mighty Ravana without fear. "The strength in me comes directly from Sri Rama," he says to Ravana, "And I am here to convey the message that you should return Sita. That is the right thing to do."

The soul stirring evening concluded with a rendering of Tulsidasaji's *Hanuman Chalisa*, a fitting tribute to the greatest devotee of Sri Rama.

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Summer Upanishad Ganga Sessions Gets Overwhelming Response



The summer 'Upanishad Ganga' sessions at Rameshwaram, had an overwhelming response through the summer break. As everyone is aware, the 'Upanishad Ganga' series, conceptualized by Guruji Swami Tejomayana and produced by Chinmaya Creations has aired on Indian television. It explores and helps answer, both, fundamental as well as deeply philosophical questions.

At the behest of Swami Ishwarananda, during the summer BV break, seekers were invited to the viewing each Sunday. While several had already seen the episodes, what made the difference at these sessions was that after each screening, Swamiji would explain the concepts touched on in the serial, in depth. In addition to Swamiji, attendees were also fortunate to have Acharya Mahadevanji and visiting acharyas Swami Chaitanyananda from Boston and Swami Ramkrishnanda from CIF talk to them on the subject.

By summer's end, those who attended had learnt about the *Upavedas*, four *Purusharthas* (*Dharma*, *Artha*, *Kama* and *Moksha*) and three of the four *Ashramas* (*Brahmacharya*, *Grihastashram* and *Vaanaprastha*). The sadhaks said their initial cursory understanding of the subject had been greatly enhanced by these sessions.

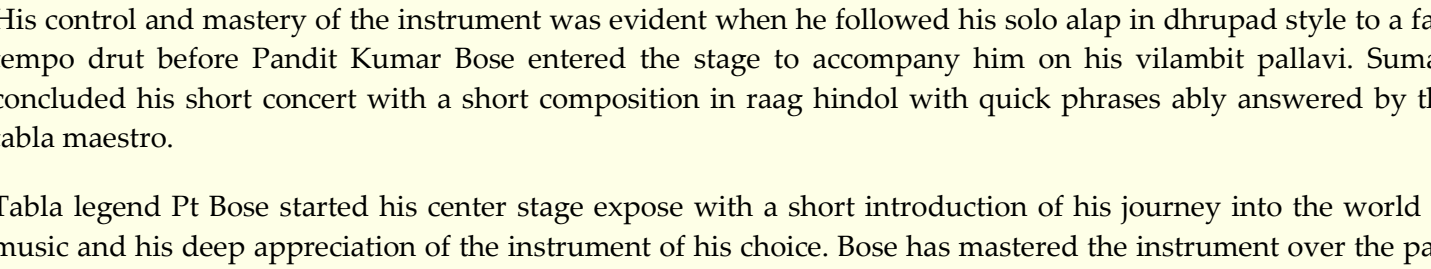
Every Sunday, children were taken care of by volunteers of ORG (Out Reach Group) coordinated by Shalini Matt.

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Pt. Bose Delights at Kalanjali Concert

Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles, through its cultural arm, Kalanjali hosted a musical evening in the expansive auditorium at their center 'Rameshwaram' on Aug. 23.

The memorable Hindustani musical event came via a 90-minute performance by Suman Laha on vichitra veena accompanied by the legendary tabla maestro, Pandit Kumar Bose; followed by a mesmerizing hour long percussion solo by him accompanied by Rupesh Kotecha on the harmonium.



Laha, who is the teacher -director of Cerritos Music Circle, played on his own uniquely designed version of Vichitra Veena. He has received his training from the Senia purist Pt. Shyamal Chattopadhyay, from the lineage of Mian Tan Sen. His alap in *puria dhanasree*, an evening raga, was an exquisitely balanced synthesis of traditional music and modern musical expression.

His control and mastery of the instrument was evident when he followed his solo alap in *dhrupad* style to a fast tempo *drut* before Pandit Kumar Bose entered the stage to accompany him on his *vilambit pallavi*. Suman concluded his short concert with a short composition in *raag hindol* with quick phrases ably answered by the tabla maestro.

Tabla legend Pt Bose started his center stage expose with a short introduction of his journey into the world of music and his deep appreciation of the instrument of his choice. Bose has mastered the instrument over the past four decades of performing life bringing out the best of expressive tonal inflections and melodic nuances. The musician was groomed as a youngster by the late Pandit Ravi Shankar to be more expressive and expansive in his accompaniment resulting in ground breaking experimentations.

Bose is also the most established disciple of the legendary Pandit Kishan Maharaj, belonging to the Benares school. His tabla solo was characterized by skillful play between the two drums (tabla and the bayan). He is especially unique amidst tabla players that he plays the usually right drum with his left hand and the left with his right hand, which in itself was a pleasure to watch.

Throughout the performance, he kept announcing his compositions exquisitely in "bols"; often, he recited some of the rarest taranas of bols with interludes of anecdotal Sanskrit verses. The maestro demonstrated, as to how the intonations and subtle modulations start in gentle cyclic pairs, quartet, sextet and octet of 'dhekas' and then race in intensity to complex mathematical variations peaking to a crescendo when the fingers on the drums were no longer 'visible' to the onlooker, but were simply heard and felt. It was also evident from Kumar Bose's scholarly references that most of these compositions have been written to accompany Kathak dancers and are a specialty of the Benares tradition, which Kumar Bose ably represents.

When the performance ended, the devout fan crowd exploded in to a standing ovation and wished that it never ended.

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Brea BV's 2014-2015 Session Begins

Brea BV opened its doors to a new 2014-15 session on Aug.24 to excited students who eagerly caught up with their friends and teachers. The session opened with the Ganesh Puja officiated by Acharya Mahadevanji in which the entire congregation participated by chanting the name of the Lord and singing a bhajan dedicated to Him. Children were introduced in their class to the year's curriculum.

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2 Month Report: Dining Hall Project Moving Along Nicely

Visitors to Chinmaya Rameshwaram for the past two months are likely to have seen the back entrance blocked off and frenetic construction activity.



Dedicated volunteers have been working with professional crews restructuring the dining area. At its completion, the 2,000sqft hall will have another floor and 3000sqft more in space. The plan also features modern amenities and conveniences.

Work began on July 1 with the laying of the foundation and erection of steel beams and columns. Structural work along with plumbing and electrical work is already complete.

The project continues to move forward at a rapid pace with October 15 being the projected date of completion.

The dining hall remodeling is only the latest in a series of projects undertaken at Chinmaya Rameshwaram ever since CMLA acquired the property in 2010.

All will recall the improvements that were made to the classrooms and the complete remodeling of the temple which has created a more sanctified and serene atmosphere for devotees. Last summer the main hall morphed into a state of the art staging venue with all the enhancements that were made.

What has emerged with the tireless work has been an up to date facility that the membership greatly benefits from. The larger Indian-American community too has availed of the building, holding private and public functions here.

The current development will be one more milestone in CMLA's pledge to serve the community more and better. If you wish to know more about the construction projects at CMLA: losangeles@chinmayamission.org.



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Practical Tips Given to Youth at Cerritos Satsang

Acharya Mahadevanji had a satsang in Cerritos on June 20, addressed primarily at the teenagers and young adults in the audience. The topic was "Stairway to Wisdom."

Mahadevanji spoke of the importance of having a routine, the ladder of wisdom, and how to sustain beliefs and values in difficult situations.

He started off by explaining the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge that is acquired, assimilated and "lingers on" and can be acquired to address both our long term and present day-to-day challenges. If the goal is a long term one, such as one of spiritual enlightenment, then short term goals will automatically be achieved.

The four steps on the ladder of wisdom, he said, are to know your goal, know where you stand, planning, and execution.

In order for the plan to be perfect, one should address these four actions at the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual levels. If one finds that one is looking at the plan from the spiritual level and knows that one's action is 'Dharmic', then one has addressed the problem at the level of wisdom. The Stairway of Wisdom can be ascended by young and old alike.

Everyone should follow a regular routine in one's life that helps them persist in pursuing creative thoughts in life. Mahadevanji pointed out that, in the case of teenagers, it is very crucial that they follow some regular routine to manage their time.

A practical guideline he provided in hours was - study/ homework 6, TV 2, sports 2, meditation 0.5, spiritually inspiring books 0.5, Japa/Chanting 0.5, creative fun books 1, yoga/jog 1, sleep 8, quiet time 2.5.

He said it was crucial for everybody to have a certain routine that they execute on a daily basis. Otherwise, they tend to forget the vital activities that need to be performed. Mahadevanji encouraged the 20-20-20 routine, or 20 minutes of yoga or jogging, 20 minutes of meditation, and 20 minutes of chanting. If 20 minutes of each is difficult, then start with 5 or 10 minutes of each, he urged the youngsters.

One technique for meditation shared by Mahadevanji was the one of "floating a leaf down the river." Imagine that you are hiking through a peaceful wilderness setting, during which time you see varieties of trees and leaves strewn all around. Soon afterwards, you see a beautiful clearing, and in front of you is a stream. You have a lot of thoughts that prevent you from keeping the mind quiet and sitting down for meditation. You sit by the stream, imagining that you place one thought on each leaf you find beside you and then send it down the river. It could be negative thoughts, thoughts of anger, and many other thoughts disturbing your mind. You are essentially doing "Puja" to the river, offering all your negative tendencies that float away downstream. Your mind is cleared of all the unwanted and unnecessary.

In life, one will meet many people who follow different beliefs from the set that one has. However, no matter how close the other person may become, one must never compromise on their beliefs or values. One of the five scenarios that Mahadevanji presented was one where a college student as a room mate who eats meat. As a vegetarian, he said, you should not change your belief in being one, in order to become a better friend to that person.

Once you have the right values and goals, you can utilize the ladder of wisdom to achieve your goals, he concluded.

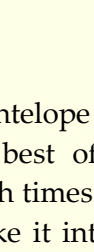
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God Creating Masterpieces!

A gathering of devotees at the Hindu Temple of Antelope Valley in July heard Acharya Mahadevanji deliver a positive and uplifting message that echoed the best of Sanatana Dharma. Especially inspiring was his description of seeing God's grace in seemingly tough times - "You are being chipped into perfect shape, just as a sculptor chips away a piece of rough stone to make it into a masterpiece!" was how he described his central message.

References from the Bhagavad Gita and other scriptures underlined key spiritual concepts and brought out their deeper meaning. All of this was done in a very practical manner, something one can act on immediately instead of mere theorizing. Various examples from Gurudev's life highlighted how to live life with full awareness of the present moment. The vastness of ancient spirituality, the wisdom of all masters, the grace of various scriptures shone through the hour long talk.

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Please send articles and pictures for publication to Nimmi Raghunathan at nimmicmla@gmail.com

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